
Venezuela's G.N. Perfin

Plentiful but Problematic

Bob Schwerdt (#505-L)

If I read Scott's note correctly, Venezuela began using the large perfinned G.N. (Gobierno Nacional; for use by government officials) after 1925, and continued the practice until 1943 – with perhaps one exception.



Many of these stamps in my collection are unused, thus suggesting that they may have been sold to the public.

Prior to the use of the G.N. perfin were the stamps with small cut-out GN letters and sometimes the 1910 date, also in cutout form. Examples in postal issues show only the letters, but in the stamps inscribed INSTRUCCION the cut-out date is also found. The location of the GN close to the edge in the postal issues precludes finding the 1910 date. A few of my INSTRUCCION examples have pen cancels, but the rest are uncanceled.



The machine which perfinned the G.N. must have been extremely durable. I haven't found a single example with a broken pin!

Naturally, I am missing many issues: high values, commemoratives, and airmails. For the sake of

completeness, I wonder if the following commemoratives were perfinned; Scott #286, 365, 366, 378, and any of the following revalued issues Sc# 287, 318, 319, 345, 375, and 377.

The 1937 semi-postal item that Scott mentions but does not illustrate is found with the G.N. perfin. But can any member confirm that Scott's B1, CB1 or CB2 were perfinned? These issues were used during the proper time period.

The exception mentioned in the first paragraph is C249 – 70¢ carmine. My eyes could be mistaken, but it doesn't seem to be the rose pink issue #C153. Perhaps there are other late usages?



A real challenge in collecting these Venezuelan perfinned officials is to find as many as possible in all eight possible punched positions. General observation suggests that the first 100 postal issues are found with the perfin in the horizontal orientation: normal, reversed, inverted normal, and inverted reverse. Thereafter, because of their relative scarcity (my experience), the perfins are found in any seven of the eight positions. Airmails up to Sc#C46 are also generally found horizontally punched, normal and reversed. After that more examples are found with the perfin oriented vertically.

The early years provide the majority of the G.N. perfins. Fewer examples are found in the later years of its use.